9: Kinietz E-4, 5 (1938) 1946
NM7 Delaware NM7

II. THE DELAWARE TRIBE

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Delaware call themselves Lenape or Lenni Lenape. Their common name is derived from the fact that their first known residence was on the river so named by the English. Lindeström gives their location in 1656 as in the vicinity of Philadelphia on the west side of the Delaware River, and their kindred, the Munsee, were located on the east side. The territory that they occupied was probably much more extensive than Lindeström indicated, but little beyond the water courses had been explored in those days. The Delaware were still in possession of the river when William Penn entered into his first treaty with them in 1682.

The British administration after Penn's time was aligned with the Iroquois who assumed domination over the Delaware. It is practically impossible to determine the exact time or circumstances of the Iroquois "making women" of the Delaware, but about 1720 they denied the Delaware the right to make war or to dispose of land. Very soon the Delaware were being crowded out of their old locations by the Iroquois and the whites. They moved to various sites farther west in Pennsylvania, and by 1751 began to settle in eastern Ohio. Within a few years the majority of them were in Ohio and Indiana. The Moravian missionaries who followed them from the East established themselves in Ohio and worked with great success until the Revolution.

Distrusted by both the British and the colonists, the Delaware and particularly the Moravian converts, were harried from both sides. The Gnadenhütten Massacre in 1782 was the greatest blow dealt by the colonists, but while demoralizing, it was not as devastating as were the moves forced upon the Indians by the British the year before. The famine and other hardships resulting from these forced emigrations scattered and decimated the Christian Delaware and also created the opportunity for the

9: Kinietz E-4, 5 (1938) 1946
NM7 Delaware NM7

731 Gnadenhütten affair. A score or so of families settled on the
167 Clinton River northwest of the site of Mount Clemens on land belonging to the Chippewa. They lived there from 1782 to 1786. In the latter year they moved to Pilgerruh near Pittsburgh, then to Pettquotting, and finally in 1791 to Canada. A few families returned to the Tuscarawas in 1798.

167 In the meantime the "heathen" Delaware were settling in
657 western Indiana, principally along the White River. In 1821 these were moved across the Mississippi by the Federal Government to a reservation near Leavenworth, Kansas. There they were joined about 1835 by a band of Delaware which had removed to Missouri in 1789 with the permission of the Spanish Government, and by 1820, after a sojourn in Arkansas, had moved to Texas with a Shawnee band. In 1867 the Delaware sold their lands in Kansas and bought rights as members of the Cherokee Nation in Oklahoma. A small party was living among the Caddo and Wichita in south-central Oklahoma when the "general severalty act" authorizing allotments was passed in 1887. This group received allotments as members of the Caddo and Wichita groups with which they have since been incorporated, while the majority in northeastern Oklahoma received allotments as members of the Cherokee Nation.

161 We have no estimates of the number of Delaware at the time
162 of their first contacts with the whites when they were living in a fairly compact body. Since then they have been scattered and connected with other tribes, with only an occasional village composed solely of Delaware. In 1824 their number was estimated as 1,500 in Kansas and 650 in Canada and scattered through New York and Ohio. In 1910 their population including the Munsee was about 1,850, of whom 895 were in Oklahoma, 55 in Kansas, about 250 Munsee with Stockbridge in Wisconsin, and 619 on three different reserves in Ontario. The 1930 figures show a slight decline, with 874 in Oklahoma.

CONTACTS

177 In their original habitat and during their migrations, the Delaware have been exposed to different types of white contact.